



CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR
**INTERNATIONAL
LEADERSHIP**

OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

**Sponsored by the
Congressional Office for International Leadership**

**THEME
Energy Security and Market Stability**

March 28 - April 5

Delegate and facilitator names

**Burim Ejupi
Zanfina Kabashi
Donijeta Sogojeva
Edita Pozhegu
Arbnora Hashani
Shpresa Kusari (Facilitator)**

Official host city: Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Host organization: Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison

**Sandra Wysock
102 Acadia Dr.
Madison, WI 53717
608-833-5326 (landline)
608-335-0759 (cell)**

Administered by Friendship Force International

Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison is a non-profit organization founded in 1978. We are part of Friendship Force International, which has clubs around the world. Our mission is to promote global understanding across the barriers that separate people. We commit to harnessing the transformative power of human connection through in-person and online cultural exchange opportunities that enhance understanding and appreciation of other cultures and societies.

Friday March 28

Delegates Arrive in Madison, Wisconsin on UA5586 from Chicago to Madison 3:35 pm – 4:34 pm. They will be picked up at the airport by Tom Miller and Magdi Sebestyen of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison.

The delegates will be welcomed and introduced to host families at the home of Sandra & George Wysock. 102 Acadia Drive, Madison, WI. Hosts should plan to be at the Wysocks by 5:00. A light meal will be provided. Delegates will spend the remainder of the evening with host families.

Saturday March 29

Delegates will have breakfast with the host family and then meet at the Wisconsin Capitol for the 11:00 am tour. Meet at the information desk in the rotunda at 10:45. Post-tour: Lunch and free time. Delegates have asked to go shopping together.

Sunday March 30

Delegates will spend time with host families during the day. Delegates have asked to have shopping time.

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Welcome Party

Covenant Presbyterian Church

326 South Segoe Rd.

Madison, WI 53717

Welcome gathering with potluck dinner with members of the Friendship Force of Wisconsin-Madison and guests. Delegates will be welcomed by Madison Alder John Guequierre. Delegates will be able to share information about themselves and Kosovo as part of the program.

Monday March 31

8:10 Delegates will meet at the Hilldale parking lot near the intersection of Hilldale Way and Heather Crest for 8:15 departure

9 am -11:00 am

State of Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy

Maria Redmond, Director

101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI
St. Croix meeting room
608-267-2713

Ms. Redmond will speak about state level energy programs and relationships that support local energy programs and initiatives

11 am -12:30 pm Lunch - location TBD

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change
Kathy Kuntz, Director
Meeting location
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI
St. Croix meeting room
Madison, WI 53703
Cell: 608 772 5452
Website: www.daneclimateaction.org

The presentation will introduce Dane County demographics, industry and the range of facilities that exist, then focus on renewable offset goals and carbon neutrality goals and the programs and technologies to achieve them. Will discuss local-state-federal relationships and how they operate in different settings.

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
City of Madison
Jessica Price PhD, Sustainability and Resilience Manager
Meeting location:
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI
St. Croix meeting room.
Madison, WI 53703
608-266-4611
jprice2@cityofmadison.com

Dr. Price develops and implements policies, programs and strategies to advance climate resilience, sustainability and planning input from community members in Madison, including the Green Power program that hires applicants from non-traditional trades as trainees and offers classroom training and opportunity to work alongside the Engineering Division installing solar photovoltaic systems.

She will address different regulatory models that affect innovation, comparing Wisconsin with New York State, where she previously worked. She will also speak to how planning and zoning can encourage energy innovation and sustainability.

4:30 pm - Monday evening's activities are flexible. Hosts may offer a dinner with family or friends or additional cultural programming.

Tuesday April 1

8:15 Delegates arrive at Hilldale meeting point

9 am – 10:30 am

Joe Pater

Director, Office of Energy Innovation
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53705
Phone: 608.513.9408
joe.pater@wisconsin.gov

Mr. Pater will discuss topics including: the value of incentive programs such as Wisconsin's Focus on Energy as a way to increase the adoption of efficiency and energy technologies, and program successes of the past few years - especially the Commission's Energy Innovation Grant. He will also discuss how the PSC provides support to stakeholders such as schools, municipalities and others across Wisconsin who are embarking on innovative energy projects.

10:45 am – 11:00 am

April 1st is Wisconsin's spring election. Delegates will be able to visit a polling station and observe the process.

12 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch at Madison College

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Madison Area Technical College (Madison College)
Dr. Ken Walz, Director
Center for Renewable Energy Advanced Technological Education
1701 Wright St.
Madison, WI 53704
608-246-6521
KWALZ@madisoncollege.edu

Dr. Walz teaches science, engineering, and renewable energy at Madison Area Technical College, where he serves as the Director of the CREATE Energy Center funded by the National Science Foundation. Dr. Walz earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin while performing research on advanced lithium-ion batteries with Rayovac and Argonne National Laboratory. Dr. Walz is an alumnus of the Academies Creating Teacher Scientists Program at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and he also spent time as a visiting scientist with the University of Rochester Center for Photoinduced Charge Transfer. Dr. Walz is an adjunct professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, where he has taught graduate courses in Engineering Professional Development and Teaching Methods for Scientists and Engineers.

Meeting Room: AB130 - Stephanie Belmas will greet us and direct us to the conference room. Her phone number is 608.279.8929

Madison College offers a Certificate Program in Renewable Energy. The delegates will learn about the Program and tour lab facilities. The Program offers an interdisciplinary technical curriculum including electrical and mechanical technology, engineering, agriculture, and basic and applied sciences, to prepare students for careers working in many capacities in a wide range of renewable energy systems.

Dr. Walz had led development of Madison College's solar installations, including a recently completed 133-kilowatt solar array at the Watertown campus. The college now has more solar generating capacity than any other school or local government in Wisconsin.

4:00 pm End of day debrief

5:15 pm – 7:30 pm

Dinner with Eric Callisto - location Great Dane Hilldale

Mr. Callisto is an attorney who has worked as a public defender and as a policy advisor at the US Environmental Protection Agency. He was Assistant Attorney General in Wisconsin from 1997 - 2003. He was chair of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission from 2008- 2015 when Wisconsin utilities were retiring their coal plants. Delegates will have an opportunity to chat informally with Mr. Callisto over dinner.

For information about the Wisconsin Public Service Commission <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/AboutPSC/HistoryAndMission.aspx>

Wednesday April 2

8:15 Delegates arrive at Hilldale meeting point

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Madison Gas and Electric Co. (MG&E)

David J. Benforado, Senior Community Services Manager

623 Railroad Street

Madison, WI 53701

608-252-7906

dbenforado@mge.com

Additional presenters: Pam Christenson, Brenda Sargent, Luke Kolbe, Jeanne Burns Frank and Dana Brueck

For more than 150 years MG&E has generated and distributed electricity in the Madison area. Today it serves 163,000 customers in Dane County and purchases and distributes natural gas to 176,000 customers in seven south-central and western Wisconsin counties.

The program will include MG&E's development, goals, milestones and renewable projects on the road to reach net zero carbon electricity by 2050.

Catered lunch will be provided by MG&E.

1:00 pm Depart MG&E

1:45 pm – 3:45 pm

Alliant Energy

Becky Valcq, Assistant Vice President

Regulatory Affairs and Data Center Services

Alliant Energy provides regulated energy services to approximately 1 million electric and 425,000 natural gas business and residential customers in Wisconsin and Iowa. Electric capability includes solar, wind and hydro power and energy storage capabilities.

With more than 2 decades of experience, Ms. Valcq oversees all regulatory affairs and data center services for Alliant Energy. Prior to joining Alliant, she was the Chairperson of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), responsible for overseeing regulation of more than 1000 water, electric and gas utilities in Wisconsin, both municipal and investor owned. She also led the State Energy Office and Office of Energy Innovation.

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

U.S. Representative Mark Pocan

10 East Doty Street, Suite 401

Madison, WI 53703

Meet in the Madison office of Congressman Mark Pocan with Morgan Salli, a member of his staff. Mark Pocan is the Wisconsin 2nd District's representative to the United States House of Representatives. He has served in this capacity since 2013.

6:00 or time to TBD between dinner host and host. Home hosted dinners. Delegates and their hosts will be hosted in another members home for the evening.

Thursday April 3

8:15 Delegates arrive at Hilldale meeting point

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Wisconsin Energy Institute
Allison Bender, Outreach Program Manager
1552 University Avenue
Madison, WI
Email: agbender@wisc.edu
Website: <https://energy.wisc.edu/>

The Wisconsin Energy Institute (WEI) is an interdisciplinary research group within the UW Madison's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, focused on energy research and education. Staff and graduate students affiliated with WEI will provide an overview of the Institute and the research they are doing and also a walking tour of their facilities.

11:15 am – 12:30 pm Lunch - location TBD

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

RENEW Wisconsin
Sam Dunaiski, Executive Director
214 North Hamilton St. Suite 300
Madison WI 53703
sam@renewwisconsin.org
608-210-1421

RENEW is a non-profit community organization that promotes renewable energy in Wisconsin. RENEW advocates for programs and policies that create and offer many forms of energy for communities, community organizations, businesses, homes. They work with state and local governments, utilities and other organizations.

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Dane County Department of Waste and Renewables

Ms. Roxanne Wienke, Deputy Director

Weinkes.Roxanne@danecounty.gov

608-509-6681

The Dane County Department of Waste and Renewables operates Dane County landfills, a variety of recycling programs and the county's renewable natural gas (RNG) facility, using landfill gases as fuel. All operations are funded by fees charged for services and not by taxpayer dollars. Their income includes excess revenue from sale of renewable natural gas produced in the processing facility. A tour of the facility will be offered.

5:00 pm

Thursday evening's activities are flexible. Hosts may offer dinner with family or friends or additional cultural programming. The time may also be used as free time, last-minute shopping or for a quiet evening with hosts. Delegates and hosts should discuss the options.

Friday April 4

8:15 Delegates arrive at Hilldale meeting point

9:00 – 10:30 pm

Holy Wisdom Monastery

Toby Grabs, Director of Operations

4200 County Road M

Middleton, WI 53562

608-836-1631 x108

Mr. Grabs will present Holy Wisdom's net-zero energy initiative, to be accomplished with installation of a 300-kilowatt, ground-mounted solar array connected to the electrical grid and replacement of old, failing natural gas-fired HVAC system with a geothermal system. 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

10:30-12:00

Courtney Berner, Executive Director

University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (UWCC)

Taylor Hall, 427 Lorch Street,

Madison, WI (location may change)

cberner@wisc.edu

608-890-0966

Cooperatives are businesses owned and managed by members who manage and distribute their resources and use their services. UWCC assists start-up co-ops with organizational development, member surveys, community and stakeholder meetings, feasibility analysis and business plans, membership drives, capitalization strategies, development of bylaws and articles of incorporation, board training, and policy development.

12:30 pm -1:30 pm Lunch and final program debrief: Location TBD

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Last minute Shopping & packing time

5:30 pm social, 6:00 pm dinner

Farewell Program and Dinner

Nakoma Golf Club

4145 Country Club Rd

Madison, WI 53711

Nakoma is one of Madison's premier private country clubs with an elegant clubhouse. Business casual dress is required.

Saturday April 5

12:30 pm

Hosts deliver delegates to the airport by 12:30 pm to allow adequate time to clear security for their departure from Madison on **UA4523** Madison to Chicago at 2:27 pm.